

Handout 1: What Happened to Soldiers in the U.S. Civil War?

Instructions: Respond to the following questions based on the materials presented in “The Horrors of War” exhibition section

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/LifeandLimb/horrorsofwar.html>).

1. “No tongue can tell, no mind conceive, no pen portray the horrible sights I witnessed.”
Whose quote is this?

What does the quote tell you about the experience of fighting the U.S. Civil War?

2. How were most of the Civil War soldiers prepared? What were some key dangers that soldiers faced at that time?

3. Examine the photos and illustrations in “The Horrors of War.” Explain what these images tell you about the experiences of the soldiers in the war that the words alone could not?

4. What new understanding have you gained about the Civil War soldiers?